

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO DIA WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ2
CINCUSAREUER HEIDELBERG GE/DCSI
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GE/IN
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK/N-2
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMLM BERLIN GE
DA WASHDC/ACSI
HQ USAF/AFIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE
SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 0852(DTG 151602Z FEB 77, SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM FEB 10
DISCUSSION

1. SUMMARY: RECENT REMOVAL OF RESTRICTED AREAS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(AND RECIPROCALLY IN THE US) AND SUBSEQUENT FAVORABLE US ATTACHE
EXPERIENCE OBSERVING MILITARY TARGETS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE
PROMPTED THIS MESSAGE, PROPOSING THAT ALLIES CONSIDER PRESSING
FOR REMOVAL OF MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESTRICTED AREAS IN OTHER CSCE
PARTICIPANT STATES. IN OUR VIEW, THE REMOVAL OF SOME RESTRICTED
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AREAS IN THE GDR AND FRG, IN PARTICULAR, COULD REPRESENT A
SIGNIFICANT MEASURE TOWARD BUILDING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE IN THE
FORWARD CONFRONTATION AREA -- THUS,WE SUGGEST STUDY OF THE IDEA
AS A POSSIBLE NEW CBM PROPOSAL AT BELGRADE 77. END SUMMARY.

2. NARRATIVE:

A. RECIPROCAL REMOVAL OF RESTRICTED AREAS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE US (BASED ON A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT) IN OCTOBER 1976 WAS NOT EXPLICITLY CONNECTED WITH THE CBM ISSUE; IT WAS A MODEST STEP AIMED AT IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, THIS STEP ALLOWED FOR SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BY US MILITARY ATTACHES IN PRAGUE, PARTICULARLY DURING FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES/MANEUVERS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE CURRENT FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLES ARMY (CSPA) AND THE SOVIET CENTRAL GROUP OF FORCES (CGF) IN THE CSSR, US AND OTHER NATO ATTACHES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN FOLLOWING CLOSELY A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF FIELD TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN BOHEMIA. IN THE LARGEST TRAINING AREA (T/A) CENTERED ON THE DOUPOV MOUNTAINS IN NORTHWESTERN BOHEMIA (ONLY 65 KMS FROM THE FRG BORDER), US/NATO ATTACHES OBSERVED DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY JOINT AND COMBINED CSPA AND CGF TRAINING/EXERCISING AT REGIMENTAL AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS. A MAJORITY OF THE MOVEMENTS/MARCHES INTO AND OUT OF THE DOUPOV T/A WERE MONITORED AT VERY CLOSE RANGE. IN SOME INSTANCES ATTACHES WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE TACTICAL OPERATIONS. CZECHOSLOVAK SECURITY FORCES THUS FAR HAVE TOLERATED ATTACHE MOVEMENTS WITHOUT APPLYING OVERLY AGGRESSIVE SURVEILLANCE (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS) AND/OR HARASSMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS ATTACHES DO NOT ACTIVELY INTERFERE WITH ONGOING TRAINING OPERATIONS.

B. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WE WONDER WHETHER SOVIETS MIGHT ALSO COUNTENANCE REMOVAL (ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS)

OF RESTRICTED AREAS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE GDR WHERE AN ESTIMATED 40 PERCENT OF LAND SURFACE
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IS PRESENTLY CLOSED TO ALLIED MILITARY LIAISON MISSIONS. CURRENTLY, THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS ARE DENYING THE ALLIED MLMS THE POSSIBILITY OF OBSERVING MAJOR MILITARY CENTERS/UNITS (WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS) BY THE USE OF PERMANENT RESTRICTED AREAS (PRA) AND MISSION RESTRICTION SIGNS. DURING FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES/

MANEUVERS THEY ALSO IMPOSE ON THE MLMS TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREAS (TRAS). BY IMPOSING TRAS DURING FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES/MANEUVERS, THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY (GSFG) AND THE GDR'S NATIONAL PEOPLES ARMY (NVA) CAN EFFECTIVELY SCREEN FROM MLM OBSERVERS NEARLY ALL OF THEIR EXERCISE EFFORTS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEIR INTENTIONS. WE MIGHT RECALL THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968 BY SOVIET AND OTHER WARSAW PACT ARMIES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EFFECTIVE USE OF TRAS IN COMBINATION WITH PRAS.

C. OUR PROPOSAL IS BASED ON RECENT EXPERIENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHERE RESTRICTED AREAS (TAKING IN WHOLE DISTRICTS) NO LONGER EXIST. WHILE EXTENSIVE SECURITY/ATTACHE FENCES REMAIN AROUND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS HERE, AND THOSE UNITS GARRISONED IN LARGE TRAINING

AREAS (E.G. MILOVICE AND MIMON) CANNOT BE OBSERVED DUE TO POSTING OF NO-ENTRY SIGNS AROUND T/AS, THESE POSTED T/AS ARE RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES COMPARED WITH MOST OF THE PRAS IN THE GDR. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT WHILE THERE ARE 21 SOVIET DIVISIONS IN THE GDR, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WE BELIEVE THIS FACT ALSO CALLS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION BY THE ALLIANCE TO CBMS FOCUSING ON THE GSFG AND NVA.

D. IN SUM, WE PROPOSE ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION OF A NEW CSCE CBM CALLING FOR MAXIMUM REDUCTION OF REMAINING RESTRICTED AREAS IN CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES -- AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS FORWARD GDR/FRG AREA OF CONFRONTATION.
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